

## Message Text

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12  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W  
----- 061337

O R 041515Z FEB 76  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9805  
INFO USMISSION USUN  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 CAIRO 1491

EXDIS

DEPT ALSO FOR SSM

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR EG IS  
SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 1 JOINT COMMISSION MEETING

1. SUMMARY: GENERAL SIILASVUO AND HIS POLITICAL ADVISOR  
MILES CALLED ON AMBASSADOR FEBRUARY 3 TO BRIEF HIM ON PROBLEMS  
THAT AROSE DURING FEBRUARY 1 JOINT COMMISSION MEETING.  
GOE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN CONFIGURATION OF E-1 REJECTED BY  
ISRAELIS. DEFMIN PERES COMPLAINED TO SIILASVUO FEBRUARY 2  
THAT THIS PROPOSAL AND GOE RFUSAL TO ALLOW UNEF  
PATROL BOATS TO USE EGYPTIAN PORTS; REQUEST FOR DIFFERENT  
ACCESS ROAD TO E-1; AND REQUIREMENT FOR ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL  
AND EQUIPMENT AT E-1 AFTER FEBRUARY 22 HAD EVOKED GOI CONCERN  
ABOUT FUTURE OF AGREEMENT. PERES SAID HE COULD ONLY ACCEPT  
RESOLUTION OF THESE MATTERS AS PACKAGE DEAL. IN FEBRUARY 3  
MEETING GAMASY HAD RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO UNEF PATROL BOATS  
BUT NOT USE OF EGYPTIAN PORTS; REVISED GOE PROPOSAL FOR E-1  
SITE; AND AGREED TO LIMITATION ON PERSONNEL AT E-1. AS  
RESULT SIILASVUO THINKS HE MAY HAVE BASIS FOR PACKAGE DEAL.  
SIILASVUO RELATIVELY UNACQUAINTED WITH US CONCERNS ABOUT  
VERIFICATION PROCEDURES AND WANTS TO DISCUSS SUBJECT WITH  
THORNE PRIOR TO RAISING IT WITH PARTIES. SIILASVUO ALSO

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MENTIONED PROBLEMS OF BEDOUINS IN NORTHERN SINAI AND RETURN

OF 1967 REFUGEES TO SINAI. END SUMMARY.

2. E-1 SITE:

EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN CONFIGURATION OF E-1 SITE EXTENDING IT FROM CREST 716 TO 720, INCLUDING 717 HAD BEEN TURNED DOWN BY ISRAELIS. ISRAELIS HAD SAID GOE HAD CHOSEN 716, WHICH PROVIDED BEST POSSIBLE COVERAGE, AND THERE WAS NO REASON FOR EXTENDING SITE TO INCLUDE 717 OR 720. SECOND, RELATIVELY, MINOR, PROBLEM CONCERNED DIFFERENCES OVER ACCESS ROAD TO E-1. ORIGINAL EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL OF DECEMBER 29, 1975 WAS CHANGED TO HAVE ROAD LEAVE MAIN GIDDI ROAD CONSIDERABLY WEST OF ORIGINAL POINT AND THEN REJOIN ORIGINALLY PROPOSED ROAD JUST BEFORE ENTRNCE TO SITE.

3. SIILASVUO SAID THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THESE DIFFERENCES WITH DEFMIN PERES ON FEBRUARY 2. PERES HAD TAKEN VERY TOUGH LINE CLAIMING THAT FOUR MATTERS RAISED BY GOE HAD EVOKED REAL GOI CONCERN ABOUT FUTURE OF AGREEMENT:

A. REFUSAL TO PERMIT UNEF PATROL BOATS IN GULF OF SUEZ TO UTILIZE EGYPTIAN PORTS;

B. REQUEST FOR CHANGE IN CONFIGURATION OF E-1 SITE;

C. CHANGE IN PROPOSAL FOR ACCESS ROAD; AND

D. INABILITY TO COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION OF E-1 BY FEBRUARY 22, THEREBY REQUIRING MORE THAN LIMIT OF 250 PERSONNEL AND ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT. PERES HAD THEN STATED THAT HE COULD ONLY ACCEPT RESOLUTION OF THESE FOUR MATTERS AS A PACKAGE DEAL.

4. SIILASVUO SAID THAT, RGARDING EGYPTIAN CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AFTER FEBRUARY 22, HE HAD IMMEDIATELY REACTED TO PERES' STATEMENT BY SAYING EVERYONE HAD ASSUMED ALL ALONG THAT CONSTRUCTION PERIOD WOULD BE MUCH LONGER; IN FACT, HE HAD HEARD 18 MONTHS TO TWO YEARS.

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5. SIILASVUO SAID HE HAD MET WITH GENERAL GAMASY ON FEBRUARY 3 TO DISCUSS ABOVE POINTS. GAMASY HAD:

A. RELUCTANTLY AGREED THAT UNEF BOATS COULD PATROL GULF OF SUEZ AS LONG AS THEY WERE NOT BASED IN EGYPTIAN PORTS. (SIILASVUO SAID THAT, SINCE ISRAEL HAD SUGGESTED BOATS COULD UTILIZE AL-TOR SOUTH OF ABU RUDAIS, HE THOUGHT GAMASY'S RESPONSE MIGHT RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM);

B. AGREED TO REVISE EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN CONFIGURATION OF E-1 TO, AT MINIMUM, CENTERING ON HILL 716 AND EXCLUDING 717 AND 720. HE HAD SUGGESTED AREA PROPOSED BY PERES BE SLIGHTLY EXTENDED TO INCLUDE HILL 693. (THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH THIRD EGYPTIAN FALLBACK POSITION REPORTED CAIRO 1105.) GAMASY HAD STRESSED THAT THERE WERE NO POLITICAL CONNOTATIONS TO EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL, BUT THAT IT BASED STRICTLY ON TECHNICAL GROUNDS. (SINCE A AND B WERE PRINCIPAL ISRAELI OBJECTIONS, IMPLICATION OF SIILASVUO REMARKS WAS THAT, IF REVISED EGYPTIAN POSITIONS ON A AND B WERE ACCEPTABLE TO ISRAEL, PACKAGE DEAL TO INCLUDE C AND D COULD BE WORKED OUT), PARTICULARLY SINCE GAMASY ALSO SAID 250 PERSONNEL WOULD SUFFICE.) SIILASVUO SAID HE INTENDS TO COMMUNICATE GOE POSITIONS TO ISRAELIS BY CABLE FEBRUARY 3 AND IF HE OBTAINS GOI AGREEMENT IN

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W  
----- 046708

O R 041515Z FEB 76  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9806  
INFO USMISSION USUN  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 CAIRO 1491

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PRINCIPLE, HE WILL CALL JOINT COMMISSION MEETING FOR FEBRUARY 5.

6. AMBASSADOR AVE SIILASVUO GENERAL BRIZRING ON ROLE OF US TECHNICIANS ADVISING EGYPTIANS ON E-1, MAKING CLEAR THEIR ROLE WAS STRICTLY LIMITED TO PROVIDING TECHNICAL EVALUATION OF EQUIPMENT CAPABILITIES FOR WHATEVER SITE EGYPTIANS PROPOSED AND NOT RPT NOT TO GIVE ANY ADVICE ABOUT LOCATING OF E-1 SITE. THIS IS MATTER FOR EGYPTIANS TO WORK OUT WITH ISRAELIS.

7. VERIFICATION: AMBASSADOR TOLD SIILASVUO THAT USG

ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT ON SFM VERIFICATION PROCEDURES PRIOR TO FEBRUARY 22. SIILASVUO SAID HE HAD RECEIVED A COMMUNICATION FROM NEW YORK ON THIS SUBJECT, BUT BEFORE BROACHING IT WITH TWO PARTIES WANTS TO DISCUSS MATTER IN DETAIL WITH THORNE AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME EITHER IN CAIRO OR TEL AVIV. (HE EXPECTS TO DEPART CAIRO EARLY FEBRUARY 5 FOR EITHER JERUSALEM OR SINAI DEPENDING ON WHETHER JOINT COMMISSION MEETS.) SIILASVUO ASKED WHAT PROBLEMS WE ENVISAGED WITH VERIFICATION AND AMBASSADOR MENTIONED AS EXAMPLES ISRAELI OBJECTIONS TO INSPECTION OF EQUIPMENT AT J-1 (AS OPPOSED TO "SPACES") AND TO SFM OPENING OF BOXES ENTERING J-1. (COMMENT: IN VIEW OF FACT SIILASVUO APPEARS RELATIVELY UNACQUAINTED WITH OUR CONCERNS ON VERIFICATION PROCEDURES, RECOMMEND THAT EARLIEST POSSIBLE MEETING BETWEEN HIM AND THORNE BE ARRANGED.)  
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SIILASVUO EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW ISRAELIS HAVE NO BASIS TO REJECT INSPECTION OF BOXES BEING TRUCKED TO SITE. IN HIS VIEW, THIS MIGHT BEST BE DONE BY AMERICAN WORKING INFORMALLY WITH OFFICER OF COUNTRY SENDING THE EQUIPMENT.

8. SINAI BEDOUINS: SIILASVUO ALSO RASIED SUBJECT OF BEDOUINS IN NORTHERN SINAI. PERES HAD RECENTLY ASKED HIM IF IT WAS TO BE DISCUSSED IN JOINT COMMISSION. SIILASVUO HAD RESPONDED THAT, BASED ON MAGDUB LETTER TO SIILASVUO AT GENEVA, IT WAS HIS INTENTION TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER OUTSIDE OF JOINT COMMISSION. PRINCIPAL PROBLEM WAS EASTWARD MOVEMENT OF BEDOUINS AND WHETHER EGYPT WOULD PERMIT THEM TO ENTER ISRAELI OCCUPIED TERRITORY AND WORK THERE. UP UNTIL NOW MAGDUB HAD SAID UNEF SHOULD STOP THEM. ON FEBRUARY 3 SIILASVUO HAD RAISED MATTER WITH GAMASY AND HE HAD SAID THAT WHILE EGYPT WOULD NOT AGREE TO PUT ANYTING IN WRITING, IT WOULD NOT OBJECT TO BEDOUINS MOVING INTO ISRAELI OCCUPIED TERRITORY AND WORKING AND FISHING. AS DEPT AWARE, GAMASY POSITION IS CONSISTENT WITH THAT WHICH HE TOOK DURING SINAI II NEGOTIATIONS.

9. EGYPTIAN REFUGEES FROM SINAI:: SIILASVUO SAID MAGDUB HAD ALSO RAISED FEBRUARY 3 MATTER OF EGYPTIANS WHO HAD FLED SINAI IN 1967 AND WHICH EGYPT HAS CONSISTENTLY MAINTAINED SHOULD HAVE RIGHT TO RETURN. MAGDUB HAD SAID HE NOW HAS ACCURATE COUNT OF NUMBERS INVOLVED AND THEY TOTAL 18,000. SIILASVUO SAID THIS FIGURE IS HIGHLY INFLATED, ACCORDING TO ISRAELIS WHO SAY THEY DON'T NUMBER MORE THAN 2,000.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** saccheem  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
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**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** saccheem  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <07 MAY 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <27 SEP 2004 by saccheem>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FEBRUARY 1 JOINT COMMISSION MEETING  
**TAGS:** PFOR, EG, IS, US, UNEF  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006